

How to Request and Use Internet-based NWSChat

Background:

- Utilized by NWS operational personnel to share critical warning decision expertise and other types of significant weather information essential to the NWS's mission of saving lives and property.
- Information is exchanged in real-time with the media and emergency response community, who in turn play a key role in communicating the NWS's hazardous weather messages to the public.
- NWS partners can use NWSChat as an efficient means of seeking clarifications and enhancements to the communication stream originating from the NWS during a fast-paced significant weather or hydrologic event.

Target Audience?:

- Members of the emergency management (EM) community
- Government partners of NWS offices
 - FAA, [Land and Water Management \(Fire\)](#), etc.
- Members of the electronic media

Establish an account – It's easy

- Go to: <https://nwschat.weather.gov/>

The screenshot shows the NOAA's National Weather Service NWSChat website. The header includes the NOAA logo and the text "NOAA's National Weather Service NWSChat". Below the header is a navigation bar with links: "NWSChat Home", "Reset Password", "Documentation/Help", "Contacts", "Online Tools", and "NWS Toolbox".

The main content area is titled "NWSChat" and contains a large yellow warning box with a triangle icon. The text in the box states: "You are accessing a U.S. Government information system, which includes: 1) this computer, 2) this computer network, 3) all computers connected to this network, and 4) all devices and storage media attached to this network or to a computer on this network. You understand and consent to the following: you may access this information system for authorized use only; you have no reasonable expectation of privacy regarding any communication of data transiting or stored on this information system; at any time and for any lawful Government purpose, the Government may monitor, intercept, and search and seize any communication or data transiting or stored on this information system; and any communications or data transiting or stored on this information system may be disclosed or used for any lawful Government purpose."

Below the warning box, there is a paragraph of text: "NWSChat is an Instant Messaging program utilized by NWS operational personnel to share critical warning decision expertise and other types of significant weather information essential to the NWS's mission of saving lives and property."

Another paragraph follows: "This information is exchanged in real-time with the media and emergency response community, who in turn play a key role in communicating the NWS's hazardous weather messages to the public."

Then, another paragraph: "NWS partners can use NWSChat as an efficient means of seeking clarifications and enhancements to the communication stream originating from the NWS during a fast-paced significant weather or hydrologic event."

Finally, a paragraph: "In order to participate in NWSChat, you must meet at least one of the following standards:"

Below this paragraph is a bulleted list:

- *Be a member of the emergency management (EM) community:* Members of the EM community includes public safety officials who serve as employees or contract agents of a government agency at the federal, state, local, or tribal level.

On the right side of the page, there is a sidebar with several sections:

- NWSChat Live!** with a link "Access NWSChat Live."
- Access Online Tools** with a section "NWSChat Username (not handle) :" containing a text input field with "@nwschat.weather.gov" and a "Password:" section with another text input field and a "Log In" button.
- Important Links** with links: "Reset NWSChat Password", "Request NWSChat Account - NWS Partners" (highlighted with a red box), "Request Account - NWS Personnel", "Documentation", and "Office Contacts".
- News and Notes** with an "RSS" icon and a list item: "11 Jan Server Restart" with "Posted on: 11 Jan 21:54 GMT".

Access NWSChat Live

- Once account is created and confirmation from NWS is received, click on “**Access NWSChat Live**” link.
- Then username/password window appears

The screenshot displays the NOAA's National Weather Service NWSChat website. The main header includes the NOAA logo and the text "NOAA's National Weather Service NWSChat". Below the header is a navigation bar with links: "NWSChat Home", "Reset Password", "Documentation/Help", "Contacts", "Online Tools", and "NWS Toolbox". A search bar is located on the right side of the header.

The main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a "NWSChat Live" sidebar with a "Google Map Panel" showing a map of the United States and surrounding regions. Below the map, there is a "NWSChat Live Login" window with fields for "Username:" and "Password:", and buttons for "Show Debug", "Browser Save Login", and "Login".

The central part of the page contains a "Welcome to NWSChat Live, please log in with your NWSChat account." message, followed by a link to "Switch to NWSChat Live without Map". Below this, there is a "Most Recent Changes" section with a list of updates, including a new feature for joining rooms and fixes for chatroom message display.

On the right side, there is a "Layers Control" panel with various map layers like "Base Layer", "Google Street View", "Satellite", "GOES Water", "GOES13 Eas", "GOES11 We", "GOES Visible", "GOES IR", "PrecipRADAR", "NMQ Q2 3 D", "NMQ Q2 2 D", and "NMQ Q2 1 D".

At the bottom right, there is a "NWSChat Live!" section with a link to "Access NWSChat Live." and a "Log In" button. Below this, there is an "Access Online Tools" section with a "NWSChat Username (not handle):" field and a "Password:" field, followed by a "Log In" button. Further down, there is an "Important Links" section with links to "Reset NWSChat Password", "Request NWSChat Account - NWS Partners", "Request Account - NWS Personnel", "Documentation", and "Office Contacts". At the very bottom, there is a "News and Notes" section with an "RSS" link and a "11 Jan Server Restart" announcement.

NWSChat Live Page with Google Map Interface

- **“Actions” button:**
 - To join group chat rooms or add Buddy lists
 - The address format to join a NWS (**xxxchat**) chat room and/or a GACC (**xxxxfirechat**) chat room:

x's = NWS/GACC office acronym

stochat - Sacramento

ekachat - Eureka

mfrchat - Medford

revchat - Reno

mtrchat - Monterey

hnxchat - Hanford

onccfirechat - North Ops

osccfirechat - South Ops

- **“Layers Control” button** – Control which background layers are displayed

The screenshot displays the NWSChat Live web application interface. On the left, a sidebar lists chat groups and buddies, including 'Sacramento Chat Group' and 'IMET Group'. The main area features a Google Map Panel showing a map of the United States with various weather overlays. A 'Layers Control' panel on the right allows users to toggle different map layers like 'NMQ Q2 3 Day Precip' and 'NEXRAD Base Reflectivity'. Below the map, a chat window shows a list of messages, including reports of flooding and heavy rain. The interface includes standard web controls like a search bar, navigation buttons, and a list of active users.